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Ministry of Forests and Range

## DISTRICT OF WELLS RECEIVES FORESTRY INVITATION

WELLS – The District of Wells has been invited to apply for a Community Forest Agreement, Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

"A community forest will allow Wells to benefit from the surrounding forests and timber supply," Coleman said. "An agreement will help the district develop a new economic sector and, at the same, increase community resource management."

The agreement has an initial five-year term and grants the right to harvest up to 5,000 cubic metres of timber per year on public forest lands within the Quesnel timber supply area. Community forest tenures are area-based, and give communities exclusive rights to harvest timber, as well as the opportunity to manage forest resources such as plant products, recreation, wildlife, water and scenic viewscapes.

"A community forest will allow the District of Wells to develop a locally operated forestry sector," said District of Wells Mayor Jay Vermette. "The employment and stewardship benefits a community forest creates will greatly complement the village's current economic drivers of mining and tourism."

Community forest agreements are a form of legal tenure by which the Province grants the rights to manage the forest resources within a specified area to communities that wish to more fully participate in the stewardship of local Crown forest resources. They are intended to stimulate long-term employment, forest-related education and skills training as well as other social, environmental and economic benefits while meeting environmental stewardship standards. After an initial term of five years, the agreements may be replaced with a long-term agreement for not less than 25 years.

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